



DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

Instructions for Students attending an Independent Study Trapper Education Course

The Independent Study Trapper Education Course is an alternative format to a traditional classroom course. Students enrolled in an independent study course, are guided by an instructor team and take the same course as students in a traditional course but will work independently to complete some of the essential coursework on their own. Independent Study students can accomplish this coursework by either completing a free online study guide or reading the student manual to answer questions in a student workbook.

**This homework is essential and is only one part of the course.
Students must also attend two classroom sessions and PASS the final exam.**

The main advantage with Independent Study is that this format offers flexibility. Students learn some of the material, at their own pace, on their own time, without attending several classes. This format does require as much time and effort as a traditional course and students will need to allot 6-8 hours of their time to complete the necessary coursework. Independent Study is a good option for students with tight schedules and who are self-motivated, conscientious and learn well on their own.

Students under the age of 18 must have written parental consent to attend our courses and should either be accompanied by a parent or guardian to sign the registration - or - the minor can bring a signed permission form (www.mass.gov/hedpermissionform) to class. Parents and Guardians are invited and encouraged to attend with their child during the course.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE IN THREE (3) STEPS

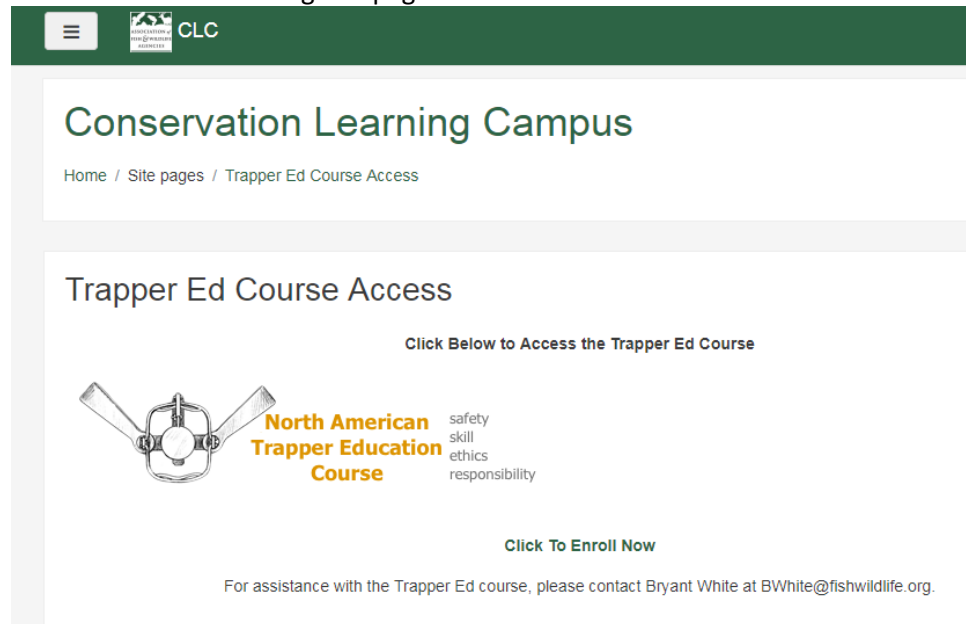
1. **Attend the First Class Session:** During the first class session, students will complete a registration form and receive study materials, including the student manual. Students will learn about Massachusetts Trapping Laws and Furbearer Management and will receive instruction on how to complete the required homework.
2. **Do the Homework:** You have two options. Either complete the Workbook (Option A) or Complete the free online Course (Option B)

Option A: Complete the Workbook: The Trapper Education Workbook is designed to strengthen the knowledge you acquire by reading and studying the *“Trapper Education Manual: A Guide for Trappers in the United States”*. The workbook is 33 pages long and is divided into 18 chapters. We suggest you read and understand one chapter of the student manual at a time and then complete the corresponding section in the workbook, answering all questions. **Bring the completed workbook to the field day.**

Option B: Complete the Free Online Course: To access and complete the online *“North American Basic Trapper Course”* follow the following steps:

1. Go online to conservationlearning.org
2. Click on the access link under **“NORTH AMERICAN BASIC TRAPPER COURSE ACCESS”** found on the far right of your screen.

3. You will see the following webpage:



4. Click on the **"Click to Enroll Now"**.
 5. Click the **"Create new account"** button.
 6. Create your account and login.
 7. You now have access to the entire, online *North American Basic Trapper Course*. The lessons are designed to be completed in order, but may be accessed in any order you please. After you complete each lesson, you will be quizzed on that lesson. You must pass each quiz with an 80% or better to complete the course and unlock your Certificate of Achievement. If you don't pass on the first try, review the material and try the quiz again. You may review lessons and re-take quizzes as many times as you would like. If you lose your place, you can view what you have left to work on by clicking on the "Course Complete" button (on the left of your screen when you're logged in to conservationlearning.org). This will show you a list of the quizzes you have successfully passed with an 80% or better.
 8. Once you have successfully completed all lessons and passed each quiz (with an 80% or better), you will receive a personalized *North American Trapper Education Course Certificate of Achievement*. **Print and bring your Certificate of Achievement to the field day.**
3. **Participate in the Field Day and take the final exam:** ***You may not participate in the field day activities if you do not complete and submit the homework.*** At the field day, students participate in a number of hands-on activities. Class participation and performance is a factor in determining successful completion of the course. Students are expected to demonstrate safe handling of equipment and a mature and responsible attitude toward wildlife and people. There is also a **final written exam**. Students must pass the final exam with a score of 80% or better.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FIELD DAY:

- **Bring your completed homework** (either the completed workbook or a printed copy of your *Certificate of Achievement* from the online homework).
- **Dress for the weather.** Activities will occur outdoors rain or shine.

- **Bring a lunch**, snacks, and plenty to drink.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Make it a Joint Effort.** Get help and discuss the lessons. It's OK to do the homework with your family and friends as long as you understand every lesson and can complete the workbook/pass the quizzes on your own.
- **Do Not Wait Until the Last Minute. Plan your time now.** The homework typically takes students 6-10 hours to complete. You will not be able to complete it in one session. Remember, **you may not participate in the field day activities if you do not complete and submit the homework.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE

Contact the MassWildlife Hunter Education Program office by phone or email if you have any questions or need assistance. Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm (excluding major holidays). Please feel free to leave a message including your name and a daytime phone number if calling outside regular business hours.

Phone Number: **(508) 389-7820**

Email: hunter.education@mass.gov